

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr
FROM : C. D. DeLoach

DATE: November 23, 1963

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
FALSE STATEMENTS BY
CHIEF OF POLICE JESSE E. CURRY (NA)
DALLAS, TEXAS

Chief Curry, NA, at approximately 11:25 a.m. this morning, made varying statements as to the FBI's failure to keep the Dallas Police Department advised regarding the background and whereabouts of Oswald. Chief Curry, while being interviewed on television, also from United Press International attributed to Curry, made generally the following allegations:

- (1) The FBI customarily advises Dallas Police whenever an individual of subversive background arrives in Dallas.
- (2) The FBI recently interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald.
- (3) The FBI had Oswald under surveillance in Dallas, however, did not notify the Dallas Police.

The Director was immediately advised of these allegations. Pursuant to instructions, SAC Shanklin was telephonically contacted and instructed to contact Chief Curry and set him straight regarding these allegations. I told SAC Shanklin that Curry should get back on television, and should also inform the wire services, immediately of the falsity of his statements. I told SAC Shanklin that if Chief Curry did not take this action we would issue a statement here in Washington putting the lie to his false statements. Shanklin stated he would do this immediately. I asked him if he knew why Chief Curry would make such stupid statements. Shanklin stated that Curry was usually very cooperative, a very good friend of the FBI, however, did not think very fast and obviously made the above statements without giving any thought to the repercussions. I told Shanklin to call me back after he had talked to Chief Curry.

SAC Shanklin called back within fifteen minutes and stated he had discussed this matter with Chief Curry and that Curry had agreed to make the retractions in question. Curry apologized to Shanklin and told him he did not mean to place any blame on the FBI. I told SAC Shanklin that regardless of Curry's statements if Curry did not follow through, he should contact Curry again within thirty minutes.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
ADD:reg
(6) DLU
Enclosure

1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Jones

ENCLOSURE

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DeLoach to Mohr memo
Re: Assassination of President
False Statements by Chief of Police Jesse E. Curry (NA)
Dallas, Texas

At approximately 1:15 p. m., NBC Television quoted Curry as stating he had not meant to imply that the FBI had failed to keep the Dallas Police informed. Curry was further quoted as stating that the cooperation between the FBI and the Dallas Police was excellent, that the FBI had proved thoroughly cooperative. He stated that the FBI was under no responsibility to report to the Dallas Police any individuals of subversive backgrounds who might be in Dallas. He also was quoted as stating that he had not meant to imply that the FBI had Oswald under surveillance or that the FBI had recently interviewed Oswald. He stated that to his knowledge the FBI did not have Oswald under surveillance.

Chief Curry also gave the same report to the radio networks and this was heard both here in Washington and by SAC Shanklin in Dallas.

We, of course, were not satisfied with the above retractions. In an effort to further cover this matter, we called our sources at both United Press International and the Associated Press and talked with them on a confidential basis. They immediately called their representatives in Dallas and instructed them to contact Curry and get him on the record in repudiating the above false allegations. I also called Jerry O'Leary of the "Washington Evening Star" who is in Dallas at the present time. He agreed to contact Chief Curry immediately and get Curry on the record regarding the falsity of the above allegations.

ACTION:

Messrs. Belmont and Mohr were kept advised of the above activities.

This matter will be followed.

(SEE ADDENDUM NEXT PAGE)

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Assassination of President
False Statements by Chief of Police Jesse E. Curry (NA)
Dallas, Texas

ADDENDUM: CDD: (p g 11-23-63:

There is attached a UPI item released as of 2:27 p. m. reflecting as follows: "Police at first said the FBI, knowing of Oswald and his procommunist, pro-Castro background, had questioned him a week ago in Dallas. Later the Police withdrew the statement as not in accordance with facts." O'Leary of the "Evening Star" reported back at 2:40 p. m. He had interviewed Chief Curry and has prepared an article putting Chief Curry on record as stating that there was a misunderstanding. Curry told O'Leary that he had not meant to place any blame upon the FBI and that the FBI had been of great assistance to the police. Curry further told O'Leary that "some-one last night told him the FBI had recently interviewed Oswald." Curry added that he now knows this to be false and that he had issued appropriate retractions to the wire services, television and radio representatives. He also stated that he had not meant to imply that the FBI had Oswald under surveillance and that he had now indicated publicly the fact that this was not true as well as the fact that the FBI had no obligation to advise the Dallas Police whenever an individual of Oswald's background arrived in Dallas. O'Leary is preparing an article and will definitely straighten out this matter.